REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Action dated March 5, 2004. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-41 were pending in the application. In the Final Action, claims 1-41 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-41 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-41 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shimizu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,323).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 20) are patentable over Shimizu.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a content management method for a data storage and a content storage system. The claims recite encryption of a content according to a content key, encryption of the content key according to a first storage key, and encryption of the content key according to a second storage key. The claims further recite that a first storing means is used to store the encrypted content together with

the encrypted content key encrypted according to the first storage key, and that a second storing means is used to store the encrypted content together with the encrypted content key encrypted according to the second storage key. For example, claim 1 recites in pertinent part:

> storing a content key encrypted with a first storage key in a first content storing means, and storing along with said content key encrypted with the first storage key a content encrypted with the content key;
> decrypting the encrypted content key with the first storage key; and
> encrypting the content key obtained by the above decryption with a newly generated second storage key; and
> storing the content key encrypted with the second storage key along with the encrypted content in a second content storing means.

Shimizu fails to disclose using a first storage means to store a content together with a content key encrypted according to a first storage key, and using a second storage means to store the content together with a content key encrypted according to a second storage key. Rather Shimizu discloses encrypting a content with a temporary key, encrypting the temporary key with a master key, and storing the encrypted content and encrypted temporary key together in a single storage means (see e.g. Shimizu Fig. 1; and col. 7, lines 4-23). More specifically, Shimizu's encrypting device 4 encrypts a file 1 according to a temporary key, thereby generating a body portion 8 serving as first encrypted data of an encrypted file 2. The temporary key is, in turn, encrypted according to a master key, thereby generating a header portion 11 serving as the second encrypted data of the encrypted file 2. Thus, the encrypted file 1 and encrypted temporary key form a single data unit, i.e. encrypted file 2, and are stored in a single storage device 12.

Since Shimizu fails to disclose using a first storage means to store a content together with a content key encrypted according to a first storage key, and a second storage means to store the content together with a content key encrypted according to a second storage key, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 20 are patentable over Shimizu on at least this basis.

Claims 2-19 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Shimizu, claims 2-19 are believed to be patentable over Shimizu on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 21-41 depend on claim 20. Since claim 20 is believed to be patentable over Shimizu, claims 21-41 are believed to be patentable over Shimizu on the basis of their dependency on claim 20.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

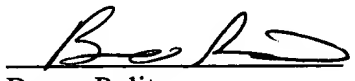
If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

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